



Coordinating European water research for poverty reduction

What is SPLASH?

SPLASH is the name of the European Union Water Initiative Research Area Network (EUWI ERA-Net). It is a consortium of 16 ministries, funding agencies and national research and technological development authorities from 11 European countries.



Aims and objectives

Established in 2007, the overall aim of SPLASH is to coordinate European water research for development, and in doing so, to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Within the context of water and sanitation research, SPLASH will:

- coordinate existing programmes to minimise duplication and identify gaps
- ensure that good research management practice is known and used
- improve knowledge sharing between researchers and practitioners to speed up the transfer of research findings into policy and practice
- agree a research agenda and jointly funded activities which can benefit from a transnational approach, with European partners working together

SPLASH activities Coordination of existing research

As a first step towards improved coordination, SPLASH mapped the existing nationally funded programmes in water research in Developing Countries. A survey report and a searchable database of these programmes are now available on the SPLASH website. Here, you can search for an overview of existing programmes by donor, recipient country and the major research themes they address. See <http://splash-era.net/outputs/index.php>

This survey shows that SPLASH partner countries are supporting research extensively in the Mekong and East African regions. In 2009, SPLASH plans to develop links between existing programmes which will potentially benefit from coordinated effort.

Establishing good research management practice

SPLASH has been looking at the research management process, including programme identification, design, implementation and evaluation aspects. This has shown that few programmes address the development of research management capacity, and most capacity development activities target the individual level. SPLASH is developing guidelines and training materials to support EU and Developing Country institutional research management capacity. These will be available during 2009 and through them, we hope to enhance the effectiveness of our programmes.

Improving the use of research in policy and practice

An important objective of SPLASH is to increase the use of research findings both in practice and in policy development. By examining successful examples of where this occurs, it was found that research is more likely to be used if relevant stakeholders are involved throughout the research cycle. Guidelines on improved dialogue practices have been developed in line with this.

Our work has also shown that the uptake of research by decision makers and practitioners depends on effective communication of research findings in the right way and at the right time. SPLASH has developed key lessons and actions to consider when designing a research programme to maximise its use by policy makers and practitioners. These lessons inform the design of all future SPLASH activities and collaborative programmes.

Designing collaborative research programmes

SPLASH has worked together with development partners to agree a number of thematic research priorities. During 2009 we will design programmes for joint funding to address these priorities.

To find out more

All outputs from our activities will be available on the SPLASH website www.splash-era.net

If you would like to be kept up to date and receive the quarterly SPLASH newsletter 'Making a SPLASH', please contact era-net@dfid.gov.uk



Contact

Anne Blenkinsopp
Project Manager
Central Research Department
Department for International Development
Email: era-net@dfid.gov.uk
www.splash-era.net

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Photographs:

above: Kyung Shik Chung, UN Cote D'Ivoire
left: Catarina Castro, IRC

far left: Media Services, Loughborough University.